REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 20 have been amended as shown above.

Claims 1-20, as amended, remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration of Claims 1-20, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

The text of the specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added to the specification as a result of the amendments.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The July 11, 2007 Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,297 to Hariguchi et al. ("*Hariguchi*"). In response the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 20.

A prior art reference anticipates a claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of the claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as they are in the claims. MPEP § 2131; *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Anticipation is only shown where each and every limitation of the claimed invention is found in a single prior art reference. MPEP § 2131; *In re Donohue*, 766 F.2d 531, 534, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

The Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10 and 14 to claim an address lookup structure that comprises a block based hashing lookup search mechanism. The block based hashing lookup search mechanism comprises a routing table implemented with selective hashing for a plurality of prefixes with different lengths and a block based memory allocation unit that allocates memory blocks to said at least one hash table.

The block based hashing lookup search mechanism of the Applicants' invention is not shown in the *Hariguchi* reference. Therefore, Claims 1-20, as amended, are not anticipated by the *Hariguchi* reference. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102 rejections and full allowance of Claims 1-20, as amended.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The July 11, 2007 Office Action rejected Claim 4 and Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hariguchi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,625,612 to Tal et al. ("*Tal*"). In response the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 20.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2142; *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1262, 23 USPQ2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir.1992). The initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* basis to deny patentability to a claimed invention is always upon the Patent Office. MPEP § 2142; *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Piasecki*, 745 F.2d 1468, 1472, 223 U.S.P.Q. 785, 788 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Only when a *prima facie* case of obviousness is established does the burden shift to the Applicant to produce evidence of

nonobviousness. MPEP § 2142; *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed.Cir.1992); *In re Rijckaert*, 9 F.3d 1531, 1532, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1955, 1956 (Fed. Cir.1993). If the Patent Office does not produce a *prima facie* case of unpatentability, then without more the Applicant is entitled to grant of a patent. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Grabiak*, 769 F.2d 729, 733, 226 USPQ.870, 873 (Fed.Cir.1985).

A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established when the teachings of the prior art itself suggest the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Bell*, 991 F.2d 781, 783, 26 USPQ2d 1529, 1531 (Fed.Cir.1993). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed invention and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on the Applicant's disclosure. MPEP § 2142.

As previously shown, amended Claim 1 is patentable. As a result, Claim 4 is also patentable due to its dependence from Claim 1. There is nothing in the *Hariguchi* reference or in the *Tal* reference that shows the elements of amended Claim 1.

As previously shown, amended Claim 14 is patentable. As a result, Claim 17 is also patentable due to its dependence from Claim 14. There is nothing in the *Hariguchi* reference or in the *Tal* reference that shows the elements of amended Claim 14.

The proposed combination of the *Hariguchi* reference and the *Tal* reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all elements of Claim 1 (and Claim 4) and Claim 14 (and Claim 17). Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of Claim 4 and Claim 17 and full allowance of Claims 1-20, as amended.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-20, as amended.

SUMMARY

The Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request full allowance of the claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@munckbutrus.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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